

## PREFACE

The final general management plan and environmental impact statement for New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park is the culmination of a three-year process that brought multiple community perspectives and broader concerns to a consensus. Using the park's enabling legislation as a framework, many stakeholders representing a diverse constituency worked together with the National Park Service to produce a plan that mirrors their interests and needs.

The end product exemplifies the benefits of public involvement—a management plan, to be implemented over a period of 10-15 years, that underscores the community's commitment to share stewardship of the park's intrinsic resource values through partnerships with the National Park Service. It is a road map that will assure preservation of those resources while making them available for public enjoyment and enrichment through interpretation and education. The existing conditions reflect a snapshot in time. Park management recognizes that the park and its partners exist in a dynamic atmosphere of growth and change.

This document is but a summary of the final plan that Northeast Regional Director Marie Rust approved by signing the Record of Decision September 3, 2001. To obtain a copy of the Final General Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement or the Record of Decision, contact the superintendent by mail at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, 33 William Street, New Bedford, MA 02740; by phone at 508.996.4469; by fax at 508.994.8922; or by e-mail at [nebe\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:nebe_superintendent@nps.gov).